



PATRICK OGAWA  
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

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November 23, 2015

### VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Office of Los Angeles Mayor  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Herb J. Wesson, Jr.  
President of the City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Room 430  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Council President Wesson,

We are writing to express our concern over recent actions by the Mayor's Office and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Approval Authority in repurposing \$11 million of UASI '11 grant funds from the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Joint Powers Authority (Authority).

The County of Los Angeles is the largest participating member of the Authority, and intends to use the LA-RICS' Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System in its day to day operations and during emergencies. The County has the responsibility, through its Sheriff's Department and County Fire Department, of providing law enforcement and firefighting services in the unincorporated areas, as well as to over 40 independent and contract cities. The County oversees a very large geographical footprint and an equally large number of residents, and responds in times of mutual aid. Your recent actions are negatively impacting the County's eventual use of this LMR System, and the overall success of this important regional public safety project.

As you may know, the UASI Approval Authority retroactively took back \$11 million in UASI '11 grant funds previously awarded to LA-RICS to build out its LMR System without prior advance notice to the Authority or the County, and seemingly on your Office's recommendation. You have also expressed your intention to reduce additional funds from the Authority from UASI '12 and '13 allocations.

It is our position that neither the Authority nor the County was given proper advance notice that this would be your recommendation at the November 10, 2015 UASI Approval Authority meeting. As we are sure you can appreciate, given the size of the potential reduction in grant funds, and the importance of the funds to building out this

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regional public safety system, such actions warrant sufficient advance notice and discussions with the Authority and the County before even a recommendation of this magnitude could be carried forward.

It is our view that the Mayor's Office should be working collaboratively with the Authority and the County to address any questions the Mayor's Office has with the Authority's ability to spend UASI '11 grant funds in a timely fashion. The UASI '11 grant funds have been expended, encumbered, allocated, and/or obligated for work related to designing and constructing the LMR System, and most of those funds have already been allocated for third party project management staffing, design and environmental work.

The City's unexpected actions have created an unplanned funding gap in the LA-RICS Operating Budget mid-year, and have placed the Authority and the County in a financial position that we find objectionable. UASI '11, '12 and '13 grant funds have been incorporated, obligated and adopted into the Authority's Operating Budget for the current Fiscal Year 2015-2016. The Authority has relied on the availability of these funds to pay for the design and build-out of the LMR System. As such, and again as we are sure you can appreciate, we similarly object to any future actions to repurpose any grant funds already awarded to the Authority for this important regional public safety project.

We request that the Mayor's Office and the President of the Council evaluate its prior actions and that of the UASI Approval Authority taken on November 10, 2015, and confirm that the \$11 million dollars in UASI '11 grant funds remain eligible for the Authority to spend towards this very important regional public safety project. We also request that you confirm that no further action will be taken with the UASI '12 and '13 grant funds already awarded to the Authority.

Your consideration of these important requests is greatly appreciated.

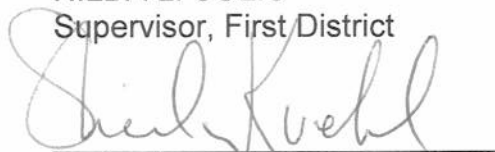
Sincerely,



MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Mayor of the Board



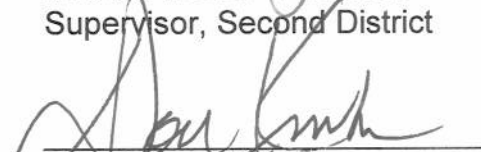
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Supervisor, First District



SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District



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Supervisor, Second District



DON KNABE  
Supervisor, Fourth District